

Case Study in Anthropology

Dental radiographs indicate the pulp chambers are intact for many of the teeth even though estimates of age are between 100 - 1100 years in age. Cavities were present and the front teeth were worn to a point where shovel shaped incisors (indicators of Native American ancestry) could not be conclusively identified. At this point, the ancestry of the individual is inconclusive but she remains one of the older skeletons recovered from the local Connecticut area.



A skeleton was excavated from a private citizen's property from the 1950's while installing a fireplace foundation. A skeleton was recovered in part but no hair, hands, feet or artifacts were found with the body. The historical record states that the adult female was discovered in a curled position on a bed of shells which would suggest the skeleton was archeological. As a training exercise, University of New Haven students were given the opportunity to work alongside the Connecticut State archeologist, Dr. Nick Bellantoni, to document the number and condition of the bones, and wear patterns and dental condition of the individual.



On the left, a juvenile wisdom tooth can be seen indicating a young female estimated less than 18 years of age. Fracture lines are visible in the jaw where the bone fragments were reassembled. Dental radiographs are courtesy of Sandy Palumbo and the University of New Haven dental hygiene program. Student research was performed by Jordyn Valoroso, Laura Reimer and Scott Tardif.